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a skep of the common construction, he places it in the wooden case above described, and forms a passage for the bees from the skep to without, by the front, not allowing them to pass in any other direction. When the bees have pretty well filled the skep with combs and honey, he takes a box, which is nearly square, and somewhat larger in the upper surface than the bottom of the skep, and places it under the skep. In the upper part of the box there is a square aperture for the purpose of forming a communication between the skep and box, which can be stopped at pleasure, by means of a sliding bar. Having received this increase of space, the colony will double their diligence in increasing their magazine of provision, and if the season prove favourable, will soon have the straw skep completely stowed with wax and honey. If thought advisable, the sliding bar may then be pushed in, and the skep removed. It is to be presumed that the bees will now be wholly or principally in the box. If it be apprehended that some are still above, these may be destroyed in the ordinary way by the fumes of sulphur. It may not however be advisable to take any part of their stock the first year, since in this climate, it rarely happens, that even a strong hive can fill a moderately sized skep in one season. At the end of the second season, the bees will have collected a larger store, and there will then be less danger of being put to the necessity of destroying, as above, any members of the colony, and less trouble in saving them during the winter.

By the above mode, my friend proposes to prevent the bees from swarming, which occasions an increase of trouble and expense, to reap a greater produce from them, and to save the lives of these interesting, and useful insects. How far he may succeed, I cannot at present say, as the plan has not yet been fully tried. I may hereafter communicate the result of his experiments on these subjects.

I shall conclude this paper by remarking, that I apprehend proprietors are in general too late in putting down their bees. Even so early as this day

(11th September) I observe, that the bees especially of the strong hives, are scarcely stirring, though the sun be shining, and the weather moderately warm. They must of course have already begun to consume their stock, and, at any rate, it cannot be expected that they will now make any addition to it. I see a few bees working on a bed of mignonette, but the quantity of honey now collected must be so small, that I conceive those who have bees should immediately take those hives which they intend for use. In those years in which the latter part of the season is uncommonly favourable, it may be proper to let the hives remain till after the beginning of October; but I believe, in general, hives should be put down towards the middle of September. A. Z.

P.S. I would gladly learn from some of your correspondents, what the nature of that substance is which wasps collect in their combs, and whether or not it could be applied to any use?

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

HAVING in vain, sought for some account of the discovery of potatoe oats, from those of my friends who were to be supposed best acquainted with the subject, I take the liberty, through your magazine, to inquire of some of your informed correspondents, whence this valuable species of oats has been derived, and from what circumstance it is that it obtains its name? It is natural for agriculturalists to wish to know some particulars of this excellent species of grain. A. Z.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SKETCH OF A RAMBLE,

Taken September, 1809.

EARLY on a beautiful morning of last September, I set out from Carrickfergus, to visit an acquaintance in the eastern part of Island Magee. The morning possessed all the charms of the season; the sun had nearly made his appearance, and his bright slanting rays reflected from the unruffled surface of the bay a dazzling light,